<u>CLAIM AMENDMENTS</u>

1.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~for managing a network~~, comprising:

presenting a graphical display of a plurality of graphical depictions representing nodes in ~~said~~ <u>a</u> network;

accepting a user selection of a first graphical depiction representing a first node<u>,</u> <u>wherein accepting the user selection comprises presenting a movable graphical line between</u> <u>said first graphical depiction and an on-screen cursor</u>;

automatically determining allowability of a connection to a second node ~~if~~ <u>represented</u> <u>by</u> a second graphical depiction ~~representing said second node is in graphical proximity to an~~ ~~on-screen cursor~~;

indicating said allowability on said display;

accepting a user selection of said second graphical depiction; <u>and</u>

displaying a graphical representation of an allowable connection between said first node and said second node~~; and implementing said allowable connection in said network~~.

2.   (Original) The method described in Claim 1 wherein said accepting a user selection of a first graphical depiction comprises highlighting of said first graphical depiction with a visual attribute.

3.   Canceled

4.   (Currently Amended) The method described in Claim ~~3~~ <u>1</u> wherein ~~said user selection~~ ~~of a second graphical depiction is facilitated by a on-screen radius~~ <u>automatically determining</u>

allowability of a connection to said second node comprises:

determining whether said second graphical depiction is within a certain radius of said on-screen cursor; and

in response to a determination that said second graphical depiction is within a certain radius of said on-screen cursor, determining whether a connection between said first node and said second node is allowed.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method described in Claim 4 wherein said ~~certain radius is displayed as an~~ on-screen radius ~~is~~ represented by a circle centered ~~on~~ around said on-screen cursor.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method described in Claim [[4]] 5 wherein said on-screen radius is user selectable.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method described in Claim 4 wherein ~~a movable graphical line is displayed between a closest allowable connectable node displayed within said on-screen radius~~ indicating said allowability comprises presenting a movable graphical line between said on-screen cursor and said second graphical depiction.

8.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method described in Claim 1 wherein said indicating a second graphical depiction comprises highlighting a plurality of graphical depictions representing allowable connectable nodes to said first node~~ The method described in Claim 1 wherein indicating said allowability comprises presenting a movable graphical line between said on-screen cursor and said second graphical depiction.

9.   (Original) The method described in Claim 1 wherein said automatically determining

allowability of a connection to a second node comprises accessing data in a memory-resident

database of allowable connections to said first node.

10.   (Original) The method described in Claim 1 wherein said graphical representation of a

connection between said first node and said second node comprises a line between said first

graphical depiction and said second graphical depiction.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method described in Claim 1 wherein said network is a

provisionable network, ~~and~~ wherein said nodes are heterogeneous, and wherein said method

further comprises implementing said allowable connection in said network such that an actual

connection is formed between said first node and said second node.

12.   Canceled.

13.   Canceled.

14.   Canceled.

15.   Canceled.

16.   Canceled.

17.   Canceled.

18.   Canceled.

19.   Canceled.

20.   Canceled.

21.   (Currently Amended) A computer system having ~~a processor~~ <u>one or more processors</u> coupled to a memory wherein said memory comprises instructions that, when executed <u>by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to</u> implement a method ~~for managing a network, said method~~ comprising:

presenting a graphical display of a plurality of graphical depictions representing nodes in ~~said~~ <u>a</u> network;

accepting a user selection of a first graphical depiction representing a first node<u>, wherein accepting the user selection comprises presenting a movable graphical line between said first graphical depiction and an on-screen cursor</u>;

automatically determining allowability of a connection to a second node ~~if represented by~~ <u>a second graphical depiction</u> ~~representing said second node is in graphical proximity to an on-screen cursor~~;

indicating said allowability on said display;

accepting a user selection of said second graphical depiction; <u>and</u>

displaying a graphical representation of an allowable connection between said first node and said second node~~; and implementing said allowable connection in said network~~.

22.   (Original) The computer system described in Claim 21 wherein said accepting a user selection of a first graphical depiction comprises highlighting of said first graphical depiction with a visual attribute.

23.   Canceled.

24.   (Currently Amended) The computer system described in Claim ~~23~~ <u>21</u> wherein ~~said~~

~~user selection of a second graphical depiction is facilitated by a onscreen radius~~ automatically

determining allowability of a connection to said second node comprises:

determining whether said second graphical depiction is within a certain radius of said

on-screen cursor; and

in response to a determination that said second graphical depiction is within a certain

radius of said on-screen cursor, determining whether a connection between said first node and

said second node is allowed.

25.   (Currently Amended) The computer system described in Claim 24 wherein said

certain radius is displayed as an on screen radius ~~is~~ represented by a circle centered ~~on~~ around

said on-screen cursor.

26.   (Currently Amended) The computer system described in Claim ~~24~~ 25 wherein said on

screen radius is user selectable.

27.   (Currently Amended) The computer system described in Claim 24 wherein ~~a movable~~

~~graphical line is displayed between a closest allowable connectable node displayed within said~~

~~on-screen radius~~ indicating said allowability comprises presenting a movable graphical line

between said on-screen cursor and said second graphical depiction.

28.   (Currently Amended) ~~The computer system described in Claim 21 wherein said~~

~~indicating a second graphical depiction comprises highlighting a plurality of graphical~~

~~depictions representing allowable connectable nodes to said first node~~ The computer system

described in Claim 21 wherein indicating said allowability comprises presenting a movable

graphical line between said on-screen cursor and said second graphical depiction.

29.   (Original) The computer system described in Claim 21 wherein said automatically determining allowability of a connection to a second node comprises accessing data in a memory-resident database of allowable connections to said first node.

30.   (Original) The computer system described in Claim 21 wherein said graphical representation of a connection between said first node and said second node comprises a line between said first graphical depiction and said second graphical depiction.

31.   (Currently Amended) The computer system described in Claim 21 wherein said network is a provisionable network, ~~and~~ wherein said nodes are heterogeneous, and wherein said method further comprises implementing said allowable connection in said network such that an actual connection is formed between said first node and said second node.

32.   (New) A method comprising:

presenting a graphical display of a plurality of graphical depictions representing a plurality of nodes in a network;

accepting a user selection of a first graphical depiction representing a first node;

automatically determining a set of two or more other nodes in said network that may be connected to said first node, wherein said set of other nodes is represented by a set of other graphical depictions in said graphical display; and

altering the appearance of each graphical depiction in said set of other graphical depictions to indicate that said set of other nodes may be connected to said first node.

33.   (New) The method of claim 32, wherein altering the appearance of each graphical depiction in said set of other graphical depictions comprises highlighting each graphical depiction in said set of other graphical depictions.